5.14.2 System Interface Tests

System interface tests shall be conducted between the EBT system and the State/county financial accounting and eligibility systems to ensure that all files transferred between the systems are properly received, accepted, and processed, both on-line and batch processing. Interface tests must also be conducted between the Contractor and the Financial Institution, if the Contractor will use a Financial Institution subcontractor for settlement, between the Contractor and other acquirers, and between the Contractor and FNS (e.g., AMA, ASAP, REDE). All of the above mentioned interface tests should include security as one aspect of the interface tests.

Bidder understands and will comply: Yes _____   No _____

Discussion (if any): _____

5.14.3 System Acceptance Test

The System Acceptance Test provides State and federal representatives the opportunity to test the EBT system functionality and operations and ensure compliance with the system design specifications and requirements. The System Acceptance Test shall occur once, before Pilot Implementation. After Pilot, the Contractor shall conduct an abbreviated acceptance test for each eligibility system that is added to the system (refer to Section 5.14.6). The System Acceptance Test shall be conducted in compliance with federal guidelines and will include testing all components of the EBT system (including, EBT host/processor, administrative terminal, ATM and POS terminal, ARU/CSC, telecommunications network, and so on). The System Acceptance test shall consist of two primary phases: structured testing based on pre-defined test scripts and ad hoc or "what if" testing. FNS Guidelines for EBT System Acceptance Test Plans is available in the Bidders' Library.

During the test script portion of the System Acceptance Test, representatives (State, county and federal) will follow detailed test scripts developed by the Contractor. The test scripts shall cover all facets of the EBT system's functionality and operations and test all of the system processing options and environmental conditions (e.g., hardware and communications failure, security violations, and erroneous data entry). Tests shall consist minimally of batch/on-line interface processing (including, account setup, change and delete; and benefit authorization, modification and cancel); card issuance and management; transaction processing; settlement processing; administrative terminal processing; retailer management; system security, edits, and controls; backup and recovery; error processing; and system reporting (both on-line and hardcopy). All system reports, including daily, monthly, quarterly and annual, shall be generated at both State and county levels as well as all batch processing, error, and performance monitoring reports. In addition, the test script portion of the System Acceptance Test shall be used to demonstrate interoperability with existing EBT systems within the State of California (i.e., San Bernardino and San Diego counties) and between California and other states.

The ad hoc or "what if" portion of the System Acceptance Test provides the State, county and federal representatives the opportunity to include various transaction sets and sequences that may not have been included in the test scripts and to challenge the system's operations and design.